

Message Text

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UNCLAS STATE 102049 TOSEC 110242

FOR FUNSETH FROM S/PRS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTING ON CANCELLATION OF GHANA VISIT

NO. 22

WIRES

1. AP (SCHWEID):MEANWHILE IN GHANA, STUDENT DEMONSTRATORS HAVE FORCED KISSINGER TO CANCEL HIS PLANNED VISIT TO THAT AFRICAN COUNTRY, AMERICAN OFFICIALS SAID.

2. REUTER (NELSON): GHANA TODAY CANCELLED A VISIT BY KISSINGER, SAYING THAT HEAD OF STATE, COL. ACHEAMPONG, WAS ILL.

BUT U.S. OFFICIALS IN KISSINGER PARTY, WHICH ARRIVED HERE TONIGHT FROM LUSAKA, INDICATED THAT THEY DISBELIEVED GHANAIAN EXPLANATION AND SAID THEY REGARDED SOVIET PRESSURE ON GHANAIAN GOVT AS REAL REASON.

KISSINGER HAD BEEN SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN GHANA ON APRIL 29

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AS PART OF HIS SEVEN-NATION AFRICAN TOUR.

WHILE HE WAS FLYING FROM LUSAKA TO KINSHASA TONIGHT, HOWEVER U.S. AMBASSADOR TO GHANA, MRS. BLACK, CABLED HIM THAT VISIT HAD BEEN CANCELLED.

U.S. OFFICIALS SAID U.S. WAS PLANNING TO PROTEST TO SOVIET UNION OVER AGITATION BY ITS DIPLOMATS IN GHANA AGAINST KISSINGER VISIT.

...U.S. OFFICIALS SAID THEY BELIEVED THAT NIGERIA, WHICH THEY SAID WAS TRYING TO ADOPT A MORE RADICAL ROLE IN AFRICA, ALSO HAD PRESSURED GHANA INTO CANCELLING VISIT.

OFFICIALS SAID THEY DID NOT BELIEVE CANCELLATION HAD ANY RELATION TO KISSINGER'S SPEECH IN LUSAKA TODAY, IN WHICH HE SET FORTH A 10-POINT U.S. POSITION FOR SOLVING DISPUTE OVER RHODESIA.

STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST KISSINGER VISIT HAVE BEEN BUILDING UP OVER PAST WEEK, OFFICIALS SAID.

U.S. OFFICIALS, WHO ANNOUNCED CANCELLATION OF GHANA VISIT ON BOARD KISSINGER'S PLANE, SAID THEY RECOGNIZED GOVT OF GHANA WAS UNDER FOREIGN PRESSURES.

"WE REGRET THAT THE VISIT HAS BEEN CANCELLED," SPOKESMAN FUNSETH SAID. "I WOULD NOTE THAT AMERICAN POLICY IN AFRICA IS BASED ON PERMANENT INTERESTS AND THAT THIS IS NOT AFFECTED BY INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS."

3. UPI (ANDERSON): KISSINGER HAS CANCELLED HIS SCHEDULED VISIT TO GHANA BECAUSE OF SOVIET-AGITATED STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS THERE, STATE DEPT OFFICIALS SAID TUESDAY.

OFFICIALS ANNOUNCED CANCELLATION AS KISSINGER FLEW FROM ZAMBIAN CAPITAL, TO THIS ZAIRIAN CAPITAL FOR FOURTH STOP OF HIS AFRICAN TOUR.

KISSINGER'S 24-HOUR VISIT TO GHANA, ORIGINALLY HIS FIFTH STOP OF SAVEN-NATION TOUR, WAS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN THURSDAY.
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GHANAIANS GAVE HEALTH OF HEAD OF STATE AS REASON FOR CALLING OFF VISIT.

BUT STATE DEPT OFFICIALS EXPLAINED THAT SECURITY, BECAUSE SOVIETS HAVE BEEN AGITATING AMONG GHANIAN STUDENTS AND POLITICIANS, WAS REASON BEHIND KISSINGER'S CHANGE IN ITINERARY.

"WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED CABLE FROM AMB. BLACK THAT SHE HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT VISIT OF SECSTATE HAS BEEN CANCELLED ON INSTRUCTIONS OF HEAD OF STATE," STATE DEPT SPOKESMAN FUNSETH TOLD REPORTERS ON KISSINGER'S BOEING 707.

U.S. OFFICIAL ABOARD PLANE SAID, "WE RECOGNIZE THAT GOVT HAS BEEN UNDER MANY PRESSURES FROM MANY FOREIGN SOURCES."

OFFICIALS SAID WASHINGTON WAS PLANNING PROTEST TO SOVIET UNION ABOUT THEIR AGITATION AMONG GHANAIA GOVT AND STUDENTS AGAINST U.S.

OFFICIALS CONCEDED THAT CANCELLATION WILL BE AN EMBARRASSMENT TO KISSINGER AND U.S.G., WHICH HAD PLANNED THIS AFRICAN TOUR AS MEANS OF RESTORING AMERICAN CREDIBILITY ON CONTINENT.

...BUT OFFICIALS ADDED, "WE ARE MATURE, AND THIS WON'T AFFECT THE BASIC DESIGN OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY."

KISSINGER WAS SCHEDULED TO GO TO MONROVIA, LIBERIA, AFTER GHANA. U.S. OFFICIALS DID NOT SAY IMMEDIATELY WHETHER THIS STOP WOULD NOW BE BROUGHT FORWARD OR WHETHER SECRETARY WOULD STAY LONGER IN KINSHASA. ... SISCO

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